

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend paragraph 104 as follows:

**[00104]** In this vacuum heating furnace 110, the PDP 100 undergoes the processing cycle shown in Fig. 12. Simultaneously with the starting of the heating of the vacuum heating furnace 110, the evacuation (or exhausting) of the furnace is started. The sealant 104 used in this embodiment has a softening point of approximately 420°C to 440°C and the melting start temperature is approximately 370°C to 390°C. As is known to those skilled in the art, the softening point is the temperature in which the strain of a glass in the form of fiber of 0.75 mm in diameter and 235 mm long is 1 mm/min, and the viscosity is approximately  $10^{7.6}$  poise. Around 350°C to 370°C, which is immediately before the melting start temperature, the gap 105, shown in Fig. 10, in the sealant 104 is still maintained. Thus, in this temperature range, it is possible to exhaust the impurity gas remaining in the space of the PDP 100 through this gap 105 from around the PDP 100, this temperature range being one which enables the impurity gas to be removed most efficiently. In view of this, the substrate temperature is temporarily maintained constant until the impurity gas is removed (period T2 in Fig. 12).

Please amend paragraph 109 as follows:

**[00109]** When the temperature of the sealant is below the temperature of the softening point of the sealant, the bubbles ~~do not occur~~ enlarge, even in the state of a pressure of several tens of kPa or more. Further, in a case that the temperature of the sealant is around the temperature at which the sealant begins softening, that is, in a state of high viscosity, the bubbles do not occur in the state of a pressure below several tens of Pa. A suitable pressure to prevent the bubbles from growing is dependant on the temperature of the sealant.